

Supertankers chart new course to avoid mines off Kuwaiti coast

KUWAIT (R) — Giant supertankers are sailing nearly half-empty from Kuwait's ports in waters previously shunned as too shallow for laden vessels but now vital to keeping the oil lifeline open, Gulf-based shipping sources say.

They said the narrow deep-sea channel that serves the Gulf Arab emirate's oil export terminals around Ahmadi, 32 kilometres south of Kuwait City, is now seen as a mine-trap.

The sources said oil tankers have abandoned it over the past week, since the fourth tanker in five weeks was holed by a sea mine.

Eighteen U.S. naval explosives experts, armed with advanced detection gear, joined the Kuwait navy this week to check for further mines amid fears that Iran is trying to blockade Kuwait's oil ports, political sources reported.

They said the search, in which Saudi Arabia has offered to take part according to a U.S. State Department spokeswoman, had uncovered more mines. No details were given.

Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah said last Monday that the investigations would reveal whether the mines were

laid deliberately or had broken free of moorings elsewhere in the Gulf. "There are indications in both directions," he added.

"Supertankers are leaving nearly half-empty — loads are reduced by a third," said one Gulf-based shipping source. Tankers have to carry lighter cargoes to navigate other routes while experts probe the deep-sea outlet.

The mine hunt coincides with political opposition in the U.S. Congress to a Reagan administration plan to allow Kuwait to put 11 of its 22 tankers under the American flag. This would entitle them to American naval protection in the Gulf.

Kuwait, the main target this year for attacks by Tehran in the so-called "tanker war" extension of the Iran-Iraq ground conflict, has leased three Soviet tankers to help ship its oil.

One of them, the Marshal

Chuykov, was the first vessel holed by a sea mine after loading in Kuwait on May 16.

It was hit about 30 miles off the Kuwait mainland, as it neared a 1½-mile-wide bottleneck at the mouth of the deep-water channel leading from Kuwait to international waters.

All four mine victims were struck within half a mile of each other. The Marshal Chuykov, said one shipping source, was left with a 40 square metre hole below the waterline.

Others also had gaping holes, but no casualties were reported. "It makes the impact of an Exocet look like a pinprick, at least as far as oil tankers hit by Exocets in the Gulf war are concerned," the source said. Exocets have done relatively little damage to tankers in the Gulf.

But an Iraqi attack with a Mirage-fired Exocet missile killed 37 crewmen aboard the U.S. frigate Stark on May 17, fuelling concern in Washington about being drawn into the Iran-Iraq war if the Kuwaiti refueling deal went ahead.

The play to sail tankers with reduced loads boosts the number

of vessels needed to maintain the flow to markets of some one million barrels of crude pumped daily by Kuwait — and adds to growing pressure on costs.

Marine insurance brokers in London on Wednesday several underwriters on the Lloyds of London insurance market had again raised premiums charged to cover vessels trading with Kuwait.

They charge 0.5 per cent of the value of an empty ship, or double the rate levied only last February.

Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah said Thursday Gulf Arab states have considered other ways to export their oil rather than through the war-torn Gulf, the Oman News Agency (ONA) reported.

Asked about alternatives on a visit to Muscat, he told ONA: "Gulf countries have not agreed on a particular plan, but there is talk among themselves to find another outlet (than the Gulf) to export their oil."

One unconfirmed press report recently said Gulf states had studied the possibility of a Red Sea export terminal as a long-term prospect.

Shultz 'actively backs' U.S. Gulf policy

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has said he was puzzled by suggestions he was trying to distance himself from administration policy on the Gulf.

"I don't see why there should be any doubts about my views" backing the policy, he told reporters on his way home from a 10-day Asia trip.

The Reagan administration's plans to protect Kuwaiti tankers and to send more warships into the Gulf have encountered strong opposition in Congress where many members fear the United States could be sucked into the Iran-Iraq war.

The New York Times Wednesday reported that administration difficulties in part were exacerbated by Mr. Shultz's "noticeable absence from the debate, raising speculation... that he opposes the policy or is reluctant to get involved in an open-ended commitment in the Middle East."

Mr. Shultz said Thursday: "I've seen that comment in a couple of places and I'm puzzled by it because I have been very strong in my statements about this subject consistently."

He noted that most of his interviews at the Venice summit of seven leading industrialised nations three weeks ago had been on the subject of Gulf policy, which he had also addressed during his Asian trip.

Meanwhile the speaker of the House of Representatives urged President Reagan Thursday to sit down with leaders of Congress to hammer out a bipartisan policy on the Gulf.

After meetings among House and Senate leaders, House Speaker Jim Wright told reporters that requests were being made for a White House conference "early next week" before refueling of Kuwaiti vessels gets underway.

North to testify before panel today

WASHINGTON (R) — A congressional probe into the Iran arms scandal is awaiting the testimony of key figure Oliver North after the top government lawyer said he feared a cover-up was in progress.

Col. North, sacked as a national security aide, who is due to appear on July 7, will be the next witness when the probe into President Reagan's worst crisis resumes after a recess.

Two government legal officials said in separate testimony that top administration officials may have known about the sale of arms to Iran and tried to conceal it.

Abraham Sofaer, the chief attorney for the State Department, said in sworn testimony released Thursday that he warned Attorney-General Edwin Meese that a possible cover-up was being prepared to conceal government knowledge of the secret shipment of missiles to Iran.

Mr. Sofaer said that when he warned Mr. Meese, the top legal official, he received a "mystifying" assurance that "all was well."

The possible cover-up concerned the sale by Israel of Hawk anti-aircraft missiles to Iran in November 1985, two months before President Reagan signed a "finding" authorising U.S. assistance in the shipment as part of a secret bid to obtain the release of Americans held hostage in Lebanon.

Mr. Sofaer said he became alarmed on Nov. 20 after seeing a draft statement for delivery to Congress the next day by then CIA Director William Casey. It said no one in the U.S. government knew of the Hawk shipment.

Mr. Sofaer rejected the statement as untrue, based on notes of a conversation at the time between Secretary of State George Shultz and former National Security Advisor Robert McFarlane.

Notes of the conversation, which took place by telephone on Nov. 18, 1986, contained a spec-

fic mention by Mr. McFarlane of the shipment of missile parts, congressional investigators said. After Mr. Sofaer pointed out the existence of these notes, Mr. Casey's prepared statement was changed to say the CIA believed the shipment contained oil drilling bits.

Members of the congressional select committees probing the scandal have faulted Mr. Meese for not bringing the FBI into the case more quickly and for assigning inexperienced staff to investigate the matter.

Mr. Meese maintained there was no evidence to warrant FBI involvement in the scandal before Nov. 25. This was when he disclosed the diversion of Iran arms sales funds to Nicaragua's "contra" rebels, a breach of U.S. law at the time.

Mr. Sofaer said he warned of a cover-up attempt on Nov. 20 but Mr. Meese did not act until he learned of the existence of documentary proof.

The question of the delay is crucial because it could have given Col. North and senior administration officials an opportunity to cover up evidence ahead of the probe.

According to testimony by his secretary, Fawn Hall, Col. North then a national security aide, began destroying and altering government documents on Nov. 21.

In separate testimony, Assistant Attorney-General Charles Cooper said the Justice Department had been misled at the time of his initial probe by then-National Security Adviser John Poindexter, his predecessor.

Robert McFarlane and North, a Marine lieutenant-colonel who was Adm. Poindexter's assistant.

Meanwhile Senate Select Committee Chairman Daniel Inouye announced Thursday that Israel has agreed to cooperate with the congressional investigation of the Iran-contra scandal.

The Hawaii Democrat told the televised joint Senate-House committee probing the secret sales of U.S. weapons to Iran that Israel has agreed to "provide us with financial and other information."

He said committee staff members had seen some of the material and it "reveals important information."

He said the committee will question General Rafael Vardi, a senior member of an Israeli commission that has compiled a chronology of the affair in response to previous U.S. requests for information.

Israel's middlemen served as a conduit for the arms sales and Israeli government officials were deeply involved in the initial stages of the secret 1985-1986 negotiations with Iran.

The first shipments of Tow anti-tank and Hawk anti-aircraft missiles were sent to Iran in August, September and November 1985 from U.S. stocks in Israel that were later replenished by the Pentagon.

U.S. investigators have been looking at accusations that the Israeli arms dealers, who had close connections with the Israeli government, skimmed some of the profits in the deals that involved the sales of some \$30 million in weapons for use in Iran's war with Iraq.

Prominent Israelis named in connection with the transactions include prime ministerial adviser Amir Nir, former Foreign Ministry Director-General David Kimche and arms dealers Yaacov Nimrodi and Al Schimmer.

A presidential commission that investigated the affair concluded Israel was a major player, pushing the United States along for its own strategic reasons when American officials hesitated.

Israel has said repeatedly it took part in the Iran arms operation only at U.S. behest in order to help its biggest ally and benefactor.

But Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin has denied Israel transferred funds or weapons to Nicaragua rebels and refused a White House request to aid them.

Sen. Inouye said Thursday the main restriction on using the Israeli evidence would be the same national security issues that apply to some American material kept from the public.

The aims outlined by Mr. Saad were reiterated by Congresswoman Mary Rose Oaker in her remarks opening the grand banquet and awards ceremony at the conference. She introduced some special guests, including Assistant Secretary of State and Mrs. Richard Murphy.

Ash Shira'a: Hizbollahis to 'testify' in Tehran 'trial' of hostages

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Two senior officials of Lebanon's Shi'ite Muslim Hizbollah faction are in Tehran to testify against American hostages moved there from Lebanon, the weekly Ash Shira'a magazine reported Friday.

Ash Shira'a, a pro-Syrian publication that broke the news of U.S. arms-for-hostages deals last November, named the men as Imad Mughniyeh and Abdul Hadi Hamadei.

Both are from Hizbollah (Party of God) and were masterminds of a 1985 hijack of a TWA airliner, during which a U.S. navy diver was killed, the magazine said.

Mr. Hamadei is the brother of Mohammad Ali Hamadei, now in jail in West Germany. It will try him for possession of explosives and for murder and air piracy during the hijack.

Ash Shira'a said in its edition for distribution on Monday that Abdul Hadi Hamadei and Mr. Mughniyeh would "give information on the American hostages who were moved to Iran and coordinate with Iran about the trial of Hamadei in West Germany."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Syrian agriculture minister ousted

DAMASCUS (R) — The Syrian government, in a drive against economic mismanagement, has forced a second cabinet minister to resign. The official Syrian News Agency SANAS said Agriculture Minister Mahmoud Al Kundi handed in his resignation after being asked by the cabinet to step down. It said the cabinet met Thursday to discuss agriculture and agrarian reform, "as well as questions raised concerning negligence and shortcomings." Mr. Kundi, a member of the ruling Baath Party and minister since April 1985, was the second senior official forced to resign, following Building Minister Riad Baghdadli. Syria's parliament approved on June 17 a resolution of no-confidence in Mr. Baghdadli, charging him with negligence.

Israeli Communists fly to China

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Communist Party leaders left for Peking Friday for their first visit in 30 years but said they were carrying no message from the Israeli government. China has never established diplomatic ties with Israel, although Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said recently there were signs of a thaw in relations. At an airport news conference, Party Secretary-General Meir Wilner said the visit, at the invitation of the Chinese party's Central Committee, was of major significance.

Libyan MiGs fly over U.S. ships

WASHINGTON (R) — Libyan Air Force jets twice flew within six nautical miles over a U.S. navy task force off the North African coast last week, the Pentagon has said. A Defence Department spokesman said the Libyan fighters "displayed no hostile intent" and the U.S. guided missile cruiser South Carolina, which carries sophisticated anti-aircraft missiles and guns, took no action against them. The South Carolina and other ships, including a frigate and a supply vessel, were on previously scheduled exercises in the Mediterranean and were about 95 nautical miles off the Libyan coast at the time of the incident, the spokesman said. He said two Libyan MiG-23s flew by the task force early in the afternoon on June 17, and two other MiG-23s repeated the manoeuvre about three hours later. The South Carolina's radar had spotted the fighters at a distance of about 135 kilometres, he said. A U.S. helicopter and an American patrol aircraft were in the vicinity at the time.

Sharjah ruler back in palace

BAHRAIN (R) — The ruler of Sharjah returned to his Gulf Arab emirate for the first time since a week-long power struggle with his elder brother ended.

The ruler, Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasbi, received well-wishers and family members at his palace, his office said.

Witnesses said troops controlled by his brother, Sheikh Abdul Aziz, had pulled back from positions dug in at key areas in the tiny emirate of 220,000 people.

Sheikh Abdul Aziz, 48, has moved out of the ruler's office, which he occupied when he assumed power on June 17.

Sheikh Sultan, who was on a private visit to Britain at the time, returned immediately to the neighbouring emirate of Dubai and stayed there until Thursday night.

Mediation efforts by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Supreme Council, the highest federal authority in the seven-emirate union, helped to end the struggle last Tuesday.

Sheikh Sultan was reinstated as ruler and Sheikh Abdul Aziz assumed the post of deputy ruler and crown prince.

Security sources in Sharjah said the 2,400-man Emiri Guard, controlled by Sheikh Abdul Aziz, would be dismantled and merged into the UAE Armed Forces.

Sources close to the ruling family said Sheikh Sultan would form a new executive council to run the emirate's political and economic affairs.

Arab Americans, Knesset members discuss Mideast peace

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Two members of Israel's parliament joined members of the National Association of Arab Americans (NAAA) to discuss prospects for peace in the Middle East during the recent NAAA annual political action conference. It was the first time in the 15-year history of the conference that members of the Knesset had been invited to participate.

Col. Ran Cohen, chairman of the Citizens Rights Party, and Abdulwahab Darawash, an Arab member of the Knesset who is on the executive committee of the Labour party spoke during a 3-hour programme entitled, "Prospects for Peace" and then answered questions from delegates.

Mr. Darawash said he came to the conference not only as one of seven Arab members of the Knesset, but "in the name of 750,000 Arabs who are living in Galilee, the Negev and the small

triangle... who are part of the Palestinian people, part of the Arab nation." Mr. Darawash said there is a consensus among the Palestinians in Israel that peace in the Middle East is essential and the only way to peace is through negotiations.

Acknowledging that he was not "one of the great supporters of the international conference," Col. Cohen asserted "the problem is not to convince me. The problem is to convince the Palestinian side to stop the terror by themselves, to recognise the state of Israel and be willing to live beside Israel."

In a discussion with conferees Col. Cohen was asked if the Israeli Labour Party — in the event it forms a new government — would be willing to give up all the West Bank and Gaza in return for a permanent peace. "I could not say that the Labour Party would give every inch back — I don't know," Col. Cohen

responded. The important thing, Col. Cohen stressed, is to seek broader areas of accord "rather than attempting to resolve specific issues now. There is a need to recognise the national rights of both peoples, and I believe this (to be) a basis upon which negotiations can be built."

In preliminary remarks David Saad, executive director of the NAAA who served as moderator of the discussion, told conferees, "a principal reason for NAAA's existence is the imperative of getting peace negotiations that provide for the safety and security of both Palestinians and Israelis."

One of the objectives of the 1987 meeting, according to Mr. Saad, was to change perceptions about the Middle East peace process both within and outside the association. In a post-conference interview Mr. Saad explained his rationale: "I see Arab Americans in cooperation with Jewish Amer-

icans, and if the world sees it that will change the psychology of the peace process a little bit."

"In America, we're used to the notion of people of good faith coming together and clearly figuring out how to solve the problem. Certainly we (NAAA) can be a forum for Israelis and Arabs and people who represent the PLO view." A purpose of the conference, he said, "was to show that prominent Israelis and prominent Palestinians — people in leadership roles — can be in basic agreement on a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian-Arab problem."

The aims outlined by Mr. Saad were reiterated by Congresswoman Mary Rose Oaker in her remarks opening the grand banquet and awards ceremony at the conference. She introduced some special guests, including Assistant Secretary of State and Mrs. Richard Murphy.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

20:30 Men from the Ministry

21:00 30-minute Theatre

22:00 Country Music

23:00 From the Proms

24:00 Close Down

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran

16:00 Programme Review

16:30 Cartoons

17:00 Children programmes

17:30 Arabic series

18:00 Chucky

18:30 Medicine Men

19:00 Arabic series

19:30 Programme review

19:45 Message from Iraq

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Arabic series

21:00 Varieties

21:30 Programme review

22:00 Documentary on Jerusalem

23:00 News Summary in Arabic

23:10 Close down

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Les nouveaux mondes (feature film)

19:00 News in French

19:15 M. Benjamin (new series)

19:30 News in Hebrew

19:45 Science World

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Music Box

21:00 Dad's Army

22:00 News in English

22:30 Feature film: "Casino on Wheels"

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM

& partly on 95.0 KHz. SW

Tel: 77411-19

07:00 Light Music

07:30 Newsday

08:00 Morning Show

08:30 News Summary

09:00 Morning Show Cont.

10:00 Jordan Weekly

10:30 Concert Hour

11:00 News Summary

11:30 Special Feature

12:00 Music

12:30 News Summary

13:00 Top Twenty

13:30 Newsday

14:00 Date with a Star

14:30 Rock Profile

20:00

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITION

* An art exhibition by Omar Borou at the Hashemite Bank Centre's gallery (until July 18).

FILM

* Film discussion by the Jordan Cinema Club at 8:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FRENCH MUSIC

* "Poetry on French song and non-song video concert at the French Cultural Centre (until July 1).

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre... Tel. 6610267

American Centre... 644371

American Centre library... 641520

British Council... 650478

French Cultural Centre... 641939

Goethe Institute... 644203

Spanish Cultural Centre... 624049

Ukrainian Cultural Centre... 639777

Haya Arts Centre... 665195

Hussein Youth City... 6671816

Y.W.C.A. ... 641793

Y.W.M.C.A. ... 642521

Amman Municipal Library... 637111

Univ. of Jordan Library... 843555

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.

Falshara Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jafar Al Ota (Ciudad Jorda). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays) 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays.

OTHER EVENTS

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Main entrance, Jafar Al Ota. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.

Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club: Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Lions Philadelphia Club: Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.

Philadelphian Rotary Club: Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Rotary Club: Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m.

Royal Automobile Club: Jafar Al Ota, Eighth Circle. Tel. 816534, 81

Queen inspects workshop for childhood education

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor inspected the workshop on early childhood education, a joint project of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation in cooperation with the University of Jordan's Faculty of Education and the National Association for the Education of Children.

This specialised training programme for early childhood education is a pilot programme developed since 1983 after meetings between Queen Noor and Dr. Eleanor Duff, director of the Department of Early Childhood Education at the University of South Carolina, to plan the development of educational prototypes for training programmes in schools throughout Jordan.

according to a press release from the Queen's office.

Queen Noor met with the 35 participants in the workshop Thursday to discuss the objectives of the programme and its future implementation in public and private schools in Jordan. Her Majesty concluded her visit with a tour of the Al Ahliya Kindergarten premises followed by a recital by the school choir.

The two-week workshop, which is being held at Al Ahliya School Kindergarten in Amman, began last Tuesday with selected participants from public and private sector teachers and professionals in the field of early childhood education.



His Majesty King Hussein meets with former U.S. senators, Charles Percy (to King's right) and George McGovern (to King's immediate left) on Thursday. The two senators are here on a working visit as part of a delegation from the Arab-American Society. Also attending the meeting were Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and U.S. ambassador to Jordan, Paul Bocker (Petra photo).

Former U.S. senators to discuss Mideast peace with Parliament

By Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN (J.T.) — Former U.S. senators, Charles Percy and George McGovern, are scheduled to meet with the Lower House of Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee today, according to the chairman of the committee, Mr. Rezaq Al Batayneh.

The two senators are visiting Jordan under the auspices of the American-Arab Affairs Council. This visit is part of a tour of several Arab countries.

The senators and the parliamentarians will exchange analysis on the situation in the Middle East and the domestic situation in the U.S.

The chairman of the American-Arab council, Mr. George Nafsey, is to arrive today to join the two senators at the meetings.

On Thursday, His Majesty King Hussein received the two former senators and other members of the American-Arab Affairs Council, and discussed with them Jordan's efforts to convene an international peace conference, according to Jordan News Agency, Petra.

King Hussein said that the international peace conference is the only way to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region.

The meeting was also attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and the U.S. ambassador to Jordan, Paul Bocker. Her Majesty Queen Noor and wives of the two visitors and Mrs. Rifai also attended part of the meeting.

In an arrival statement on Thursday, Mr. Percy praised King Hussein's efforts to achieve peace in the region and said that His Majesty enjoys great international respect. He added that the time is auspicious for holding an international peace conference under the United Nations umbrella and in accordance with U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338.

He stressed the importance of such a conference, saying that "a disaster will occur if it is not held."

Petra Programme participants arrive for 1-month course on Arab culture

By Peter Baratta Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A group of twenty students and nine professors from the U.S. arrive in Amman today as participants in this year's "Petra Programme," designed to give Americans the chance to experience firsthand Arab culture and traditions, the project director of the programme said.

Mrs. Bedira Abdul Jalil said the group will stay in Jordan for one month and study the country's history, and political and social structures, as well as visit a number of historical sites.

The programme, sponsored by the Arab Cultural Association, was created three years ago specifically to give American students of Arab origin the opportunity to rediscover their roots, said Mrs. Khawla Abu Odeh, the project's

other director.

The programme was designed to "invite these students to live their traditions while and to get more knowledge of their origins," Mrs. Abu Odeh said.

The programme has since expanded and now invites any American student who wants to learn more about Arab culture and the Middle East, she said.

"Although the entire group is under the auspices of the 'Petra Programme,' ten of the students are part of the Malcolm H. Kerr High School Scholars Programme, sponsored by the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, a Washington D.C.-based organisation.

Established in memorandum of Dr. Kerr, the president of the American University of Beirut who was killed in 1984, the programme allows students from across the U.S. to study in an Arab country, said Ron Cathell, executive director of the National Council.

The remaining ten students, who are alumni of the Kerr Programme and are currently enrolled in American universities, will remain in Amman for a few days before travelling to the West Bank and Jerusalem, Mr. Cathell said.

The professors are members of the Joseph J. Malone Faculty Fellows Programme, Mr. Cathell said. This is the first year professors have been invited to participate in the "Petra Programme," Mrs. Abu Odeh said.

Mrs. Abu Odeh said while the Arab-Americans who join the programme sometimes take for granted their ancestry and the culture of Jordan and the Arab World, the Americans of non-Arab origin "want to know everything."

However, by the end of their stay, Mrs. Abu Odeh said, "the Arab students feel that they are newly born. They feel like they have missed something and now they have found it."

Although Arab-Americans are usually excited to journey to their homeland, non-Arab-Americans are sometimes hesitant to join the programme, Mrs. Abu Odeh said.

"When the Americans listen to the news in the States about the Middle East, they think the war in Baghdad is in Amman and that Lebanon is in Jordan," she observed. "So they get scared, they don't apply. They don't realise that there is no problem in Jordan."

"The image of the Middle East is terror," added Mrs. Abdul Jalil. "Many people are not well informed; the Arab World is not as terrible as it is pictured."

The students will first stay at the Amman Hotel for two weeks where they will learn how to prepare Arabic food from the hotel's restaurant management section, Mrs. Abu Odeh said.

The students will spend the rest of the summer living with Arab families to learn firsthand about Jordanian traditions and customs, she said.

During their stay, the students will learn basic Arabic, study the political, social and economic issues in Jordan and the Arab World, visit historical sites around the country and participate in many cultural activities, including *doppa* — traditional Arabic folk dance, she said.

The professors, who will also stay in the Amman Hotel for two weeks, will travel to Yarmouk, Mu'ta and Irbid universities and meet with some of their counterparts, Mrs. Abdul Jalil said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

King accepts invitation from Ershad

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received a message from President Mohammad Ershad of Bangladesh. The message, which contained an invitation to King Hussein to visit Bangladesh, was delivered to the King by Minister of Awqaf in Bangladesh, Mawla Abdul Mannan, who had an audience with King Hussein on Thursday. The King accepted the invitation and said a date will be fixed later. The audience was attended by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat.

Petra moves offices

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan News Agency, Petra, has moved to its new premises in Jabal Amman between Third and Fourth Circles next to the Jabal Amman Maternity Hospital. The agency's new telephone numbers are: 644455, 644456, 644457, 644458, 644459 and 648114.

IMF group here to employ Jordanians

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Washington-based International Monetary Fund (IMF) arrived here on Friday within the framework of a tour of Jordan, Kuwait and Egypt. The delegation, headed by Dr. Abdul Shakour Al Sha'alan, head of the IMF Middle East Department, will meet with a number of highly qualified Jordanians holding Ph.D. or high degrees in finance and economics in order to work with the IMF. This is in line with the fund's plan aimed at increasing the Arab staff at the IMF in accordance with the volume of Arab states contributions to the IMF.

Rifai chairs administration committee

AMMAN (Petra) — The royal committee for administrative development Thursday held a meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai and approved the civil servants regulation in its final form and decided to submit it to the Cabinet for approval. The committee also discussed a number of issues pertaining to upgrading civil servants performance.

Lawi receives Soviet peace council

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawi received a delegation representing the Soviet Council of Peace, headed by Izzat Nizarovitch, member of the Supreme Soviet and chairman of the Peace Committee in Soviet republic of Turkmenia. Mr. Lawi and the Soviet official discussed the serious efforts made by His Majesty King Hussein to achieve Arab solidarity and to enhance relations between Jordan and the Soviet Union. They also discussed the grave consequences of the hostile and aggressive Israeli policies in the occupied Arab territories and the effects of the Iran-Iraq war on international peaceful efforts. Information Minister Mohammad Al Khatib also received the delegation on Thursday.

E. European envoys call for support in nuclear disarmament efforts

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Five envoys from the socialist bloc have urged the countries in the region to take part in the international efforts to achieve nuclear disarmament and stop the arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union.

"All countries in the world should contribute to the ongoing efforts to achieve nuclear disarmament and should be part of the struggle to realise a secure world... the issue is not confined to the U.S. and the Soviet Union alone... it concerns all the nations," was the gist of the message conveyed by five socialist ambassadors during a panel discussion held at the Soviet Cultural Centre on Thursday.

During the discussion, the ambassadors outlined the different disarmament proposals put forward by the Warsaw Pact and its individual member states which aimed at the reduction of nuclear weapons, the banning of nuclear testing and chemical weapons. A special emphasis was rendered by the envoys of the Soviet Union, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Bulgaria, to the resolutions endorsed by the Warsaw Pact during its last meeting in East Berlin on May 29, 1987.

Following its Berlin meeting, the Warsaw Pact called for the implementation of all the Soviet-American agreements to reduce the deployment of missiles and other nuclear weapons in Europe.

The Berlin meeting resolutions included the following concrete proposals offered by the Warsaw Pact members to the West:

- To conclude an agreement on removing all the Soviet and American medium-range missiles in Europe in accordance with the tentative agreement reached at the Reykjavik summit last year.

— To simultaneously remove all the Soviet and American tactical missiles from Europe and to start discussions about the similar missiles which are deployed in the east of the Soviet Union and in the U.S.

— For both the Soviet Union and the U.S. to reduce the offensive strategic arsenals to 50 per cent in the span of five years to be followed by negotiations between the two sides on further reductions of such weapons.

— To work towards imposing a complete ban on nuclear tests as a prelude to stop the production and development and consequently to the elimination of the nuclear weapons.

— To push towards the banning of all chemical weapons.

After outlining the main results of the Berlin meeting, the ambassadors pointed out with disappointment that "so far there has been no positive response on the part of the U.S."

Both East German envoy, Wolfgang Grabowski, and the Czechoslovakian charge d'affaires, Emil Hruscky, discussed in some details the significance of their joint initiative to create a nuclear weapon-free corridor in Europe.

The 300-kilometre wide suggested corridor would be set up on between Czechoslovakia and West Germany. So far, Bonn has not responded to the joint East German-Czechoslovakian initiative but the Berlin meeting, which endorsed the initiative, has suggested "a mutual and simultaneous withdrawal of all nuclear arsenals from the proposed corridor."

Both envoys reiterated that their countries initiative still stand despite the lack of positive response on the part of the West.

The Bulgarian ambassador, Yancho Demirep, who spoke in Arabic, explained the importance of his country's 1985 call for the creation of non-nuclear zone in

all of the Balkans. "The presence of nuclear arsenals in the Balkan does not constitute a danger to the security of Balkan region only but also to the Middle East and the whole world," Mr. Demirep warned.

The Polish ambassador, Jacek Szydlowski, reiterated his country's proposed peace plan for the reduction of arsenals in Europe and stressed the urgent need for freezing all atomic armaments on the continent.

In conclusion, the Soviet ambassador, Alexander Zinchuk, noted that "some important barriers remained" in the path towards achieving a disarmament treaty with the U.S. He said that one of these barriers was the insistence by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) on maintaining nuclear missiles in West Germany.

"The Soviet Union is trying very hard to make progress," he said. "What we are trying to achieve is equal security for East and West," he said. "After all, we cannot endanger the security of the socialist government for the sake of any agreement."

During the discussion all the envoys pointed out that the people in the Middle East could effectively contribute to the efforts towards the reduction of weapons and the elimination of nuclear arsenals through resolving the major conflicts in the area, i.e. the Palestinian question and the Iran-Iraq war.

"Both conflicts can only be solved through negotiations... it has been proved again and again wars cannot solve conflicts," the envoys said.

They reiterated that an international peace conference, in which all the five United Nations Security Council members and all parties involved in the conflict, was the only effective framework to realise a negotiated and a just settlement for the Palestinian question.

UNESCO: All Arab children should receive education

By Nermeen Murad Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Education for all children by the year 2000, through a long-term illiteracy-eradication strategy, was one of many resolutions adopted at the conclusion of a four-day conference of under secretaries and officials from the education ministries of 17 Arab countries.

The conference, which was organised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation's (UNESCO) regional office for education in the Arab states (UNEDBAS), made a thorough review of the educational situation in the Arab World and assessed the best means to eradicate illiteracy by the turn of the century.

The meetings, which began on Monday and were held at the Regency Palace Hotel, ended on Thursday night and the activities planned for Friday, including a trip to Jerash for the participants, were called off.

In an earlier statement, an education specialist from UNESCO said that "the Arab World, which once ranked second after Africa in the ratio of illiterates to the population, in the world, has now moved to place number one."

This was an issue of controversy at the meeting, since the percentage of illiterates in different Arab states varies greatly. As an example, Sudan has a rate

of illiteracy of 85.3 per cent of the population while Jordan's rate is 32.4 per cent.

Another resolution adopted in the meeting included a series of measures to be adopted individually by governments and privately-owned educational organisations with financial, technical and research related assistance.

The participants also urged that the prospective measures be extended to include fields related to educational methods and to upgrade technical and financial educational capabilities with a view to providing education at all levels and for all ages by the 1990's.

Participants also agreed to join in celebrations marking the international year for combating illiteracy, slated for the year 1990.

The conference tackled other important issues, including encouraging Arab students to undertake vocational and technical specialised education.

Equally, the participants agreed to go on encouraging the creativity and innovation of those

students who are interested in university studies.

Special attention to demographic and environmental factors at all levels of education and to the spread of science education outside the schools through competitions and other such activities, was called for by all participants and observers at the meeting.

Women participation in the field of education both as students and educators was seen as important to help bridge the gap that sometimes occurs in the education of women in some Arab states. According to a pre-conference statement, UNESCO estimates the average rate of illiteracy for Arab women to be 49.5 per cent.

The education of Palestinians in the occupied territories was a major issue of discussion of the meeting. The participants called on UNESCO to aid the education institutions in the occupied territories and provide for their effectiveness under the current occupation.

Many general proposals were also put out by the meeting such as contacting those in charge of Arabsat, an information satellite sponsored by Arab countries, to see the possibility of using it for education projects. They also called for cooperation with other regional offices, in particular the Arab League's Educational, Cultural, and Scientific Organisation (ALESCO), and other organisations.

EC, Jordan to sign \$113m accord

AMMAN (J.T.) — The European Community (EC) will grant a third tranche of aid covering the period 1987-1991 to the eight Mediterranean countries with which it has cooperation agreements, according to an EC press release. This Mediterranean Financial Protocol will amount to 1,618 million European Currency Units (ECU) — equivalent to about \$1,830 million — of which ECU 615 million will be non-refundable aid and ECU 1,003 million will be loans from the European Investment Bank

(EIB).

Jordan will receive ECU 100 million (approximately \$113 million at current exchange rates) from the Third Protocol, which has been approved by the Cabinet and is to be signed shortly between the European Community and Jordan.

Of this, \$42 million will be in the form of non-repayable grants and \$71 million in the form of EIB loans. The overall amount will mean an average of \$22.6 million a year.

Resources made available to Jordan in the Third Protocol will finance technical cooperation projects in various economic sectors, and will take into account such priorities as food self-sufficiency, regional cooperation and enhancing industrial and technological cooperation.

Up to now Jordan has received the equivalent of \$116 million from the EC Protocols: \$71 million in the Second Financial Protocol (1981-1986), and \$45 million in the First Financial Protocol (1979-1981).

Ghali assails Shamir's remarks

(Continued from page 1)

publicised Western European tour to seek support of governments there for the peace conference idea.

Mr. Shamir called on the Soviet Union to change its Middle East policies, saying: "No Soviet interest will be harmed by peace."

"We shall be convinced that the Soviet Union is indeed interested in furthering peace when it discontinues its support for elements... such as the PLO, Syria and Libya. As long as the Soviet Union works to force Arab unity against Israel... its statements about readiness to contribute to a solution of the conflict will be devoid of credibility," he said.

In Washington, veteran Israeli official Abba Eban said Wednesday Soviet participation could be crucial to the success of an international peace conference on the

Middle East.

"No war has ended in the Middle East without Soviet participation," he told an audience of past and present U.S. officials and other Middle East experts at the Brookings Institution, a widely-known research organisation.

"A settlement (in the Middle East) without Soviet participation is an exception," he added.

Mr. Eban said the Soviets have told the Israelis they favour an international peace conference and that "they won't impose a settlement" on Israeli and Arab negotiators.

But he also said "we don't have their agreement yet" that Moscow would participate.

"A condition in which the United States is the only mediator is not feasible," he added.

Mr. Eban urged the United States "not to let it die, to advocate" intensively the peace conference idea.

He expressed urgency that the

conference take place this year, arguing that if it did not, U.S. and Israeli national elections in 1988 would ensure no action on the matter until 1989 or beyond.

U.S. Assistant Secretary Richard Murphy and Vladimir Polyakov of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Middle East section are scheduled to discuss the Middle East peace conference and related issues in Geneva on July 6 and 7.

Mr. Eban, a former Israeli foreign minister and U.N. ambassador, urged his own divided government to negotiate a settlement that would relinquish most of the West Bank and its 1.3 million Palestinians.

Mr. Eban said they should be part of a Jordanian-Palestinian state. Otherwise, he said, Israel will soon lose its Jewish identity amid a faster-growing Arab population.

"The present tranquility is volcanic," Mr. Eban said.

Iraq says 44 Iranian battalions wiped out

(Continued from page 1)

town north of Mawat.

Iraq also said its navy had destroyed "a large maritime target" — its usual phrase for a tanker or merchant vessel — in an attack near Iran's Bandar Khomeini Port.

The navy unleashed missiles at

the vessel after it was spotted at 1634 GMT on Thursday trying to enter the port at the head of the Gulf, a military spokesman told INA.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, in the past a staunch supporter of Iran in its war with Iraq, said in an interview published Thursday he was trying to mediate an end to the "meaningless" conflict.

"We are determined to stop the Iran-Iraq war," he told the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Rai Al Aam in the interview, conducted this week in Benghazi.

He also said Libya and Algeria would announce next November

steps to form a union, which he said would function along the lines of "a Swiss union, a Soviet union, or Yugoslav union."

He indicated Damascus was welcome to join. "Syria can enter this union because it is a target of Israel and imperialism," he stated.

The Libyan leader voiced support for Kuwait's moves to charter Soviet tankers or register its tankers in the United States to protect its oil exports from Iranian attack in the Gulf.

These tankers would be ended to protection by Soviet and U.S. warships patrolling the Gulf.

U.S. to send special envoy to Damascus

(Continued from page 1)

that Syrian agents were involved in an attempt to bomb an Israeli airliner in April 1986.

However, the United States left a charge d'affaires to head the embassy in Damascus and overrode diplomatic relations.

Fitzwater, who said it was "a decision to open the door a bit," said Syria had influence in the

area and was a major geographical presence. He cited recent public events of "Syria's involvement in Lebanon and help in (curtailing) terrorist activities."

Fitzwater did not provide specifics on the letter and would not confirm reports that Vernon Walters, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, would serve as the envoy.

The spokesman said Mr. Walters was qualified, but said the administration would not name the envoy until a formal announcement.

The New York Times, in Friday editions, quoted an unidentified senior administration official as raising the possibility that the envoy would be Mr. Walters.

Fitzwater said he had no information on hostage Charles Glass.

Mabrouk



Su'ad Nasser



Naim Hourani

AMMAN (J.T.) — Thursday, June 25, 1987, marked a most happy and memorable day for Jordan Times' advertising officer, Naim Hourani, who celebrated his engagement to Su'ad Nasser.

Naim, 24, could only wait for his fiancée, 23, to finish her studies at the University of Jordan before he made his move towards the golden cage.

The wedding is to take place only after he obtains his own B.A. in accountancy which is expected at the end of the summer, from Yarmouk University.

The staff of the Jordan Times extend their mahrouks to the happy couple all the way to their wedding day and of course well beyond.

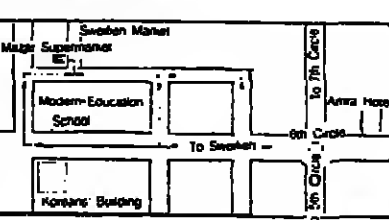
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Arab World cities suffer congestion, disparity and inefficiency

By Mary West
Special to the Jordan Times

Approximately one quarter of the world's population — over one billion people — live in absolute poverty with inadequate shelter in conditions of overcrowding, squalor and ill health. According to U.N. figures, approximately 100 million people are homeless, sleeping in streets, doorways and wherever else they can find shelter.

In December 1982, the year 1987 was designated by the U.N. General Assembly as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (IYSH). Designed not just as a one-year event, but as a whole programme of action, from its inception in 1983 to the year 2000, the IYSH aims to heighten international awareness about the overwhelming scale of the world's shelter problem, to encourage nations to reassess their shelter and settlement prospects, and to draw up new strategies to meet the demand. The ultimate goal is to significantly improve the shelter of all the world's poor and disadvantaged by the year 2000.

Shelter Problems in the Arab World

As in other parts of the developing world, many Arab cities are suffering from rapid population growth and unplanned urbanisation leading to the alarming increase of slums and squatter settlements.

Along with the other countries committed to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, Arab states are trying to address these problems by launching their own shelter programmes. With the great differences in resources, population, and economic systems that exist among Arab states, however, the scale of the housing problem and the nature of the programmes to remedy the problem vary greatly from country to country.

Of all the Arab states, Egypt undoubtedly faces the worst housing deficiency, despite of a huge government programme to meet the demand. Its problems of a high rate of population growth and high concentration of people in the cities are compounded by the existence of government restrictions on the use of valuable agricultural land for building, and by the high cost of durable building materials.

Dr. Leila Bisharat, UNICEF's regional adviser on urban development, sums the problem up

as follows: "Too many people in too small a space with too few building alternatives and too little money to build or buy land. If they build outdoors, they can't eat," the doctor said about the need for land to farm. "If they build upwards, the materials will collapse."

Sudan is severely affected by the combined disasters of drought, desertification and war in neighbouring countries that have brought thousands of refugees to the capital. Currently Khartoum leads all Arab capitals with the highest rate of population growth.

There are an estimated 600,000 people living in squatter settlements in and around Khartoum, most of them refugees. The country suffers from limited financial resources, shortages of skilled labour, difficulties in the transportation of building materials, and financing problems for people trying to build shelters.

North Yemen, one of the poorest countries in the region in terms of GNP per capita, also has a high rate of population growth. There has been a large influx of people from the rural areas to the capital as well as workers returning from the Gulf states.

In Saudi Arabia, the main problem is not lack of building skills and materials, but lack of infrastructure — water, sewerage, and electricity.

Some Gulf states, on the other hand, are able to afford an almost lavish standard of housing for their low-income citizens. In Qatar, all low-income citizens are given free land and have access to long-term, interest-free building loans. Construction of houses and infrastructure is subsidised; widowed, elderly, orphaned or handicapped citizens are offered free housing. The average cost of a government-sponsored housing unit is \$83,000, according to figures published by U.N. Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) last year.

In the UAE, the government has instituted a programme to provide housing for all residents. According to government figures last year, 50% of households had already been granted free land and housing under the programme.

The government also provides grants to citizens to build additions to their homes. It is aiming to settle displaced nomads in areas close to their original habitat.

Large scale government housing projects are, then im-



Cairo's homeless dwell in the city's dumping ground. The project has not only resulted in new and safer homes for villagers made homeless in the earthquake, but has provided work for local masons, who were trained in building earthquake resistant structures.

The communities themselves provided the labour, and local building materials were used. In this way, the cost of the project was kept down and the villagers felt a sense of commitment and accomplishment.

In Jordan, Habitat is currently involved in two technical cooperation projects. It is providing technical expertise in a test project on low-cost sanitation in the Madaba area, in cooperation with the Ministry for Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment.

This project aims to provide appropriate sanitation services to low-income settlements in the area. The design of the sanitation unit can be replicated in other rural areas in Jordan. Technical personnel from the ministry are receiving training in the implementation of the system.

The second project is a plan to upgrade the Shaballa squatter area near Aqaba through a joint effort to be undertaken by the government and the local population. Habitat is assisting the government in studying the situation, identifying Shaballa's needs in order of priority, and formulating a work programme for the project, which will benefit approximately 8,000 people.

Habitat has also consulted with the Jordanian government about housing finance, and about the application of micro-computers to human settlements.

In Amman, in 1985, the agency assisted in a regional training course on the design and execution of urban projects. As a result, Habitat has become the executing agency for the establishment of a permanent regional training centre for human settlements in Amman. This centre, which will be housed at the Ministry of Planning, was formed at the suggestion of the government, who has provided staff and facilities.

The centre will be holding its first set of workshops — on the use of micro-computers in human settlements projects — in June this year, and at least 15 countries are expected to send participants.

There will also be a 4-week training course in urban management later this year.

Jordan

Jordan represents the middle ground in terms of the shelter problems of the region, with neither the wealth of the Gulf states, nor the overwhelming problems faced by, for example, Egypt.

Amman has nearly doubled in area over the past ten years, due mainly to a construction boom resulting from the oil boom of the 1970's. The population of the Amman region, now about one and a half million, has been growing at the rapid rate of 6 per cent per year.

Yet, despite the amount of construction that has taken place for the middle to upper income groups, residential construction for the lower income groups has not kept pace with demand, and large areas of central and eastern Amman are deteriorating into slums, characterised by larger families and extensive overcrowding, poor access to services and substandard housing. According to a national report prepared for IYSH, between 20 and 30 thousand families living in greater Amman are in need of better housing.

Jordan's housing deficit, though small compared with that of most developing countries, is nevertheless a cause for concern, and various steps are being taken to tackle the problem. A shelter unit was established at the Ministry of Planning in 1985 to study all aspects of the country's housing needs and to formulate a national housing strategy.

The current five-year development plan aims to direct more housing investment towards the low and limited income groups, and to encourage housing projects which allow for the participation of low income groups in their planning and implementation.

Dr. Bisharat commented that, in some ways, Jordan has been able to capitalise on the lessons other countries have had to learn in dealing with their housing crises. It's efforts so far in providing better housing for the urban poor, notably the Urban Development Department's slum upgrading and "sites and services" projects, have had the benefit of experience gained from housing projects in other countries.

Dr. Bisharat explained that there are usually three or four stages to a housing crisis. It begins when there is a sudden influx of people to the cities, whether as a result of migration from the countryside, war, or natural disasters such as droughts or famine. Shanty towns and squatter settlements grow up almost overnight.

The first stage is for the government of the country to pretend that the problem does not exist. Then, when it can no longer be ignored, attempts are made to push the people out of the city.

The third stage, when forcing the people out has failed, is for the government to recognise that it has a housing crisis on its hands.



Shaka Zulu — Friday at 10:20

JTV Channel 2 Preview

Sat. — June 27, 1987

8:30 Music Box

9:30 Dad's Army
No Spring for Frazer

10:20 Feature film
Casino on Wheels

Starring: Mitchell Ryan, Robert Hogan

A detective story about a caravan for gambling. A thief comes and robs all the money from the club. The police discovers the gambling net, and goes after the boss.

Sun. — June 28, 1987

8:30 Growings Pains
Thank you, Willie Nelson

9:10 Doc. — Conquest

The conquest is a history of space achievements from science fiction to the shuttle. From dreams and ideas spanning more than two centuries of human development came the scientific knowledge to begin the race into space, the evolution of space stations and shows how satellites could improve the quality of life on earth.

10:20 Miss Marple
Nemesis

In Nemesis, Miss Marple is confronted with one of her strangest mysteries. A letter from a recently deceased friend, Jason Raphael, asks her to solve a crime, but he gives no details of who or what was involved, nor where or when the events took place. He has simply booked her onto a coach tour of historic homes and gardens. From Raphael's lawyers, Miss Marple learns that her friend had a son, Michael, who, eight years before, had been accused of murder. He was not convicted, but disappeared, and has not been seen since.

Mon. — June 29, 1987

8:30 Three Up Two Down

9:10 Magnum

10:20 Whose Baby

Tue. — June 30, 1987

8:30 New Cycle Preview

9:10 The Two Mrs. Grenvilles

The Two Mrs. Grenvilles chronicles Ann's fall to disgrace after she marries and murders the sophisticated and handsome Grenville heir, a scandalous crime her mother-in-law will pay anything to cover up. Despite her

hatred for the money-hungry and name-dropping Ann, Alice Grenville is determined to protect the good reputation of her family and banish her daughter-in-law from the privileged and charmed circles of the rich and powerful.

10:20 The Unknown War

Wed. — July 1, 1987

8:30 Three's A Crowd

9:10 The Silk Road

This is an exclusive film about the Silk Road, full of splendid scenery, adventures, arts, lives of the people and great natural vistas. This is truly a rediscovery of the historical route, taking you on an exciting journey full of satisfaction, from Xian to Pamir, through the Yellow River and the Gobi Desert, in vivid colour. The Silk Road was not simply a trading route for the beautiful silk, glass and precious stones of that time. Since the goods were carried by men, the religious, arts, and civilizations of different nationalities were also transported from one country to another.

10:20 The Dark Secret of Harvest Home

Starring: Bette Davis, David A. Rizzio

The dreams of a young fantasy are transformed into nightmare as they discover the ominous evil behind a small town's quaint custom — the ritualistic murder and corruption that lurk beneath the surface of their neighbour's smiles.

Thu. — July 2, 1987

8:30 Me and My Girl

9:10 Rags to Riches

10:20 Feature Film
Nobody Runs Forever

Starring: Rod Taylor, Christopher Plummer, Lilli Palmer, Camilla Sparo, Dalila Lavi

Fri. — July 3, 1987

8:30 — Bill Cosby Show

9:10 Falcon Crest

10:20 Shaka Zulu

At Kwa Bulawayo, the whites are guests at a victory celebration. During the festivities, Shaka is stabbed and is seriously hurt. News of his "death" reaches the Cape and the British think their problems are over.

'The first subway system in Africa and Middle East: A symbol of human patience'

Cairo metro finally ready after innumerable obstacles

By Neila Sammakia
The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — A wide granite staircase leads from one of Cairo's busiest squares down into a quiet tunnel of gleaming marble walls: pastel pharaonic frescoes and tulip-shaped temple columns. Inside, by the 3,000-year-old Sakkara temple in the desert, the pristine station 8 metres underground is part of Cairo's subway, scheduled to open in October. The line is expected to carry about one million commuters daily, relieving the capital city's congested traffic by at least 30 per cent.

"This is even prettier than the Paris subway," said Yves Burette, an engineer with SOFRETU (Société Française d'Etudes et de Réalisations de Transports Urbains), a French consulting agency working on the project. "I felt like dropping everything and leaving about 50 times, but now I'm very pleased I didn't."

Conceived in the early 1970s, the \$150 million, 2.8-mile project met with innumerable obstacles since work began in late 1981, delaying its completion by 2½ years and increasing its cost by about 50 per cent.

Financed mainly by France and executed by a French-Egyptian consortium, the first subway system in Africa and the Middle East has become to many a symbol of human patience and endless perseverance.

"At the beginning, our work was almost always immobilised," said Alberto Granda, deputy manager of the consortium, Interim Arabco. "We had a very difficult first two years, with technical problems added to unfavourable bureaucracy."

When government reluctance to allow digging in the Cairo streets was finally overcome, workers were faced with inaccurate maps if any at all — of underground water, gas, sewage, telephone and electricity lines. Main squares often were flooded at the touch of a peck.

"We had to search for the owners when we found a cable or pipeline," Granda said. "Then we had to get their approval to deviate.... We used to meet daily

with the telephone, water, electricity and sewage authorities."

As work proceeded, it was discovered that instead of having to relocate only 6¼ miles of public utilities, as maps had shown, 41¼ miles of underground infrastructure had to be moved to make way for the tunnels. This added to the delay and increased expenses, Granda said.

"The utilities were placed at different times in Cairo's history and were not made known," Burette said. "We had floods at Tahrir square, Ramses square."

The subway's northern terminus is at Ramses square, site of the city's main railroad station, and a major station is at Tahrir

square, the city's main bus depot behind the Nile Hilton Hotel.

Current plans call for the Interim Arab consortium to hand over its product to the Egyptian Railway Authority on July 26, the 25th anniversary of the 1952 revolution that overthrew Egypt's monarchy. A test period of about 10 weeks will follow before President Hosni Mubarak officially inaugurates it for public use on Oct. 6.

Cairo's first sophisticated transport system, complete with machines to sell and punch tickets, the metro is sure to bewilder many people accustomed to clambering onto the city's over-

crowded buses or private minibuses.

"Television will start showing instructions after July 26, when we will have pictures of the real thing," said El Hussein Abdel Salam, a retired army Major General heading the national authority for tunnels.

He said the state is counting on large-scale savings in lost productivity from projections showing that the metro will cut down on employee travel time by about two-thirds.

Mubarak repeatedly has been urging higher productivity within the public industrial and service sectors, burdened by low salaries,

little incentive and time lost commuting through the city's traffic snarls.

The subway stations' decor is Egyptian, Arab or Islamic in style. Sadat station, beneath the central Tahrir square, is reminiscent of the pharaonic treasures in the Egyptian museum next door. Sayeda Zeinab station, named after a nearby mosque and shrine of a grand-daughter of the Prophet Mohammed, has Islamic art motifs.

How the system will be maintained is one issue of public debate, with some concern that the stations will soon be filthy and rundown.

Although Cairo was once an immaculate city, the population explosion of the past 20 years has overwhelmed services like garbage collection. There are few public amenities like toilets or garbage cans.

However, both Frenchmen and Egyptians involved in the project are optimistic. "When the people will see the beauty, they will respect it and keep it clean," Granda said.

"Why is everyone so worried about cleanliness?" Abdel Salam asked. "There are plenty of metros in Third World countries, and the one in Mexico City is cleaner than those of Paris and London."

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Becker tumbles out

Connors, Evert battle through to 3rd round at Wimbledon

LONDON (Agencies) — Defending champion Boris Becker was knocked out of the 1987 Wimbledon Tennis Championships in the second round Friday when he was beaten 7-6, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4 by unseeded Peter Doherty of Australia.

Also on Friday Ivan Lendl finally emerged victorious from his personal vendetta with Italian Paolo Canè when he squeezed into the third round of the men's singles.

Resuming at one set down and 5-5 in the second, the world's number one came back from the edge of defeat to win 3-6, 7-6.



Becker... the vanquished

6-7, 7-5, 6-1 after twice being within a point of falling behind 5-3 in the fourth set.

Lendl, runner-up to Boris Becker in 1986 and seeded second this year, makes no secret of his dislike for the Italian, ranked 39 places beneath him on the computer, and was doubly satisfied with his victory.

"I don't care for him because he always tries to cheat," said the normally courteous Czechoslovak, who will now play American qualifier Richey Reneberg for a place in the fourth round.

"He questioned every call which was close to the line and I finally told him to stop crying and play some tennis."

Connors and Chris Evert, two former champions out to repeat long-ago triumphs, struggled but won second-round matches over much younger opponents at Wimbledon Friday.

Sunny skies greeted the players and fans after a day of rain

Thursday, in which only one match was completed. Three of the first five days of the tournament have been hit by rain, but officials reiterated that they had no plans to play on Sunday.

Connors, 34, the Wimbledon men's titlist in 1974 and 1982 and seeded seventh this year, used strong service returns to beat 24-year-old Stephen Shaw of Britain 6-2, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4. He won on his third match point when Shaw scot a backhand approach shot long.

Three times women's champion Chris Evert, drawing on all her experience and with a little help from the linesmen, fought off two set points on her way to the third round of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships.

Before she finally beat 19-year-old Italian qualifier Laura Golarza 7-5, 6-0, the scary memory was revived of the one blemish on her remarkable record of reaching at least the semifinals in 14 of her 15 Wimbledon appearances.

That single setback happened on the same number one court where she played on Friday, in the third round in 1983 when she surrendered in two sets to fellow-American Kathy Jordan.



'DOWN-TO-EARTH HUG': Al Hussein goalie Khalid Ibrahim jumps to embrace the ball in defense as Al Faisali striker Ibrahim Mustafa attempts a shot during a league match Friday between the two clubs. The two teams drew goalless. In another match in Irbid Al Ramtha club defeated Al Jazireh 2-1. (Photo by Youssef Al Allan)

match Friday between the two clubs. The two teams drew goalless. In another match in Irbid Al Ramtha club defeated Al Jazireh 2-1. (Photo by Youssef Al Allan)

Roldan to face Hearn for middleweight title

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentina's Juan "Hammer" Roldan said he will not squander his high chance when he fights American Thomas Hearn for the vacant World Boxing Council (WBC) middleweight title in Las Vegas later this year.

"It's my big chance and I won't waste it," Roldan told the local daily La Nacion in an interview published on Thursday. "It's what I've been waiting for some time and the reason for my return to boxing."

"I came back for (Marvin) Hagler, but if he's not there, and Leonard has quit, it had to be Hearn," said the 30-year-old Argentine, who came back last year after a 14-month absence from the ring.

Sanctions on Real reduced

ZURICH (R) — Real Madrid, who were ordered to play their next two home matches in European competition behind closed

doors, has had their punishment reduced on appeal to the European Football Union (UEFA). UEFA decided the Spanish club must play their first home tie behind closed doors and their second home fixture in a stadium 350 kms from Madrid.

A UEFA press spokesman told Reuters after the appeal board meeting that the no-crowd sanction and the total ban on radio and television coverage would remain in force for the first match, and be lifted for the second.

UEFA's Control and Discipline Committee last month imposed the closed doors sanction on Real because of crowd violence during the second leg of their European Cup semifinal against Bayern Munich in April.

An appeal by the Italian Football Federation against their under-16 team's disqualification from next month's FIFA-organized World Cup in Canada was rejected.

UEFA said last week that Italy had fielded an over-age player against the rules. A plea by Spain's Real Zaragoza against a four-match ban on Francisco Guerrero, who was dismissed for violence in a Cup Winners' Cup tie against Ajax Amsterdam on April 8, was also thrown out.

Princess Anne to ride in U.S. race

LONDON (AP) — Britain's Princess Anne will ride in her first American horse race when she takes part in a two-mile flat event in Tennessee in October, it was announced Thursday.

The princess, the only daughter of Queen Elizabeth II, will ride at Perry Park in Nashville, Tenn., as part of a race meeting named in honor of the Queen Mother, her grandmother.

Organizers said \$20,000 of the proceeds of the meeting will be donated to the Save the Children Fund, of which the princess is president. The four-race card is set for October.



Princess Anne

The feature race on the card will be the \$225,000 Queen Mother Supreme Novice Chase.

The princess, given the title of Princess Royal last month for her work with Save the Children, has ridden in 21 races in Britain as an amateur jockey. She won on her 14th attempt when Gulland scored on the flat at Redcar last August and this year she has turned to steeplechasing on Caoc Na Cuille.

The meeting is being organized by the International Steeplechase Group, headed by George Sloan, the only American to have won the Champion Amateur Riders title over jumps in Britain and the United States.

"We are delighted to have the Princess Royal as our guest in Nashville. And we are particularly pleased to express our appreciation to the Queen Mother by naming a feature race in her honour," Sloan said.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Albania to play in Mediterranean Games

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Albania has informed Syria that it will participate for the first time in the Mediterranean Games. The games are scheduled in September at the Syrian port city of Latakia. Sami Mudalal, chairman of the Syrian Federation of Sports, said he received a letter Thursday from the Albanian Olympic Committee stating that the reclusive communist nation would take part in four of the 17 sports being competed. The games have been held every four years since 1951 for the countries of the Mediterranean basin. Albania is among the 18 countries eligible but has never asked to participate. Syria is hosting the 10th Mediterranean Games in Sept. The 1983 games were held in Casablanca, Morocco. France and Greece are competing candidates to host the 1991 Mediterranean Games. Mudalal said a record number of 3,500 athletes will participate in the 10th games in a brand new, modern sports complex bordering a Mediterranean beach at Latakia.

W. Germany refuses stadium refurbishment

BONN (R) — The West German government has refused to fund a refurbishment of the soccer stadiums to be used during the 1988 European Championships, a government spokesman said Friday. He said a request by the West German Football Federation for a 25-million mark (\$14 million) subsidy for organizing committee for a 25-million mark (\$14 million) subsidy was turned down on cost-saving grounds. During a debate Thursday in parliament, the government said it was satisfied that the stadiums already met UEFA requirements in all important areas.

Italy introduces new abolishing system

ROME (R) — Italian soccer authorities have decided to introduce an experimental points system that will abolish drawn matches in preliminaries for the domestic cup next season. Federation sources said Friday. They said the scheme and a further decision to raise the number of First Division teams to 18 from the 1988 season would be announced by Italian Soccer Federation chief Franco Carraro at a news conference in Rome on Monday. The new points system will be tried out in elimination matches of the domestic cup, played in groups, from August 23 to September 6. Matches ending in a draw will be decided on penalties. The winners earn three points for a victory, after 90 minutes and two points for a win on penalties. The losers take no points after 90 minutes and one if they lose on penalties.

Change to make 13th defence of WBC title

SEOUL (R) — World Boxing Council (WBC) light flyweight champion Chang Jung-Koo of South Korea is a solid favorite to retain his title for the 13th time on Sunday when he faces Colombia's Augustin Garcia. Chang, 24, has regularly defended the title he took from Hilario Zapata of Panama in March 1983. He needs only two more wins to break the Asian record of 13 successful defenses of a World Crown, held by former World Boxing Association (WBA) flyweight champion Yoko Kishiken of Japan.

Referees told to clamp down on fouls

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Soccer referees have been instructed to clamp down hard on intentional fouls during the South American Cup which opens here on Saturday, a spokesman for the Argentine Football Association (AFA) has said. "The International Football Federation and the South American Football Confederation (CSF) have instructed referees to severely punish ill-intentioned fouls," he said. He said the referees were told "not to dialogue with the players" during the 10-game, 13-match tournament at three venues in Argentina which ends on July 2.

Fenech confident he can swat the Flea

SYDNEY (R) — Australia's super-bantamweight world champion Jeff Fenech is confident he can swat "the Flea," American Greg Richardson, in their World Boxing Council (WBC) title fight on July 10. Richardson, flies into Sydney on Wednesday to prepare for the bout against Fenech, who is impressed by what he's seen on video of Richardson, ranked third by the WBC.



A HEAVY BLOW: Iraqi welterweight champion Abbas Khafar pounds Algerian Ferian Noureddin in a playoff of the 4th Arab boxing championship being held in Amman. Noureddin, the Algerian champion, won the bout by points. Iraq is leading seven other Arab countries which have reached the last eight positions. The finals are scheduled for Sunday (photo by Youssef Al Allan)

Optimistic Brazilians head for S. American Cup

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Brazil's soccer coach Carlos Alberto Silva has likened the South American Cup to a mini world cup and said he hoped Brazil would meet world champions and hosts Argentina in the final — and beat them.

"I would very much like a final with Argentina and if we can win it, so much the better," Silva told reporters Thursday, when the Brazilians arrived in Buenos Aires for the tournament starting on Saturday.

Silva said it was Brazil's firm intention to win the Copa America and regain their privileged standing in world soccer.

Silva said the Copa America will be a hard cup. It's going to

be a very hard-fought tournament," Silva said of the 13-match, 10-odds-out event.

Brazil travelled on to the northern city of Cordoba, where they will be vying for a place in the semifinals with Chile and Venezuela, their first rivals on Sunday, in Group B.

The young squad, average age 22, has only six members of Brazil's World Cup party a year ago.

Silva said the only stars were defender Julio Cesar of French club Breest and striker Careca, newly signed by Italian champions Napoli, who are captained by Argentine ace Diego Maradona.

Brazilian journalists accom-

panying the team said World Cup right back Josimar was playing well below his best.

Silva said victory in the tournament was vital for the process of reorganization in Brazilian soccer.

"It is vital that (the team) gets results and international experience because this is a process intended for the World Cup in Italy," Silva said.

Silva claimed he had been misunderstood when reports from Brazil said he had criticised the organization of the tournament as designed to favour Argentina.

"They tried to create a climate of antagonism around me," he said.

Epsom runner-up Most Welcome seeks Irish Derby compensation

NEW BRIDGE, Ireland (R) — Epsom Derby runner-up Most Welcome seeks to gain rich compensation in Saturday's Irish Derby by which has cut up badly and now offers one of the most disappointing turnouts for a top European classic this season.

In the smallest field to face the starter at the windswept Curragh since Troy's 1979 victory, only nine runners have been declared and three of these are from the Vincent O'Brien stable.

With Epsom third-place finisher Bellotto withdrawn be-

cause of the soft going and Royal Ascot winner Love the Groom sidelined by a bruised foot, British challenger Most Welcome and his Irish jockey Paul Eddery have been installed 5-2 favourites.

Second choice of the bookmakers is French challenger Sadiyd, a disappointing eighth at Epsom, who will now be ridden by Walter Swinburn. Regular partner Yves Saint-Martin fractured his wrist in a fall at Chantilly this week.

The race for the \$532,232 Irish prize looks like a re-run of the

English Derby but without the attraction of impressive Epsom winner Reference Point.

For Sir Harry Lewis, fourth at Epsom and certain not to be worried by the soft going at the Curragh, again takes his chance as does the Epsom fifth, Entitled, who is being equipped with blinkers for the first time by O'Brien.

American Cash Asmussen, O'Brien's new stable jockey this season, is still torn between riding Entitled and the stable's other big hope, Sheikh Mohammed's Fair Judgement, winner of a maiden first time out and impressive on

the gallops since.

British trainer David Elsworth offers a valuable chance to compare European Classic form as he seeds over Naheez, third in the French Derby to the impressive winner Natroun, another last-minute withdrawal at the Curragh.

Despite the disappointing turnout, a capacity crowd of 30,000 is expected at the Curragh where trainer Geoff Wragg is convinced Most Welcome can at last gain compensation for his classic defeats at Epsom and in the Newmarket 2,000 Guineas.

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Court rules USOC has right to bar gay Olympics

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Olympic Committee has the legal authority to bar a homosexual rights group from sponsoring athletic competition called the Gay Olympics, the supreme court has ruled.

By a 5-4 vote, the justice ruled that congress has granted the committee exclusive commercial use of the word "Olympic."

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Tel: 675573

HANNA AND HER SISTERS



Performances: 8:30, 10:15, 11:30, 12:30

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Tel: 675571

SHANGHAI SURPRISE



Performances: 8:30, 10:15, 11:30, 12:30

Cinema RAGHADAN

Tel: 622198

SLAS II

Performances: 12:15, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15

49 killed in Filipino air crash

MANILA (R) — United States search crews reached a Philippine airliner which crashed in remote mountains with 49 people on board Friday but said they saw no signs of survivors.

"From the air there appears to be no survivors," a U.S. Air Force official told Reuters.

The report appeared to dash lingering hopes that some of the 45 passengers and four crew may have survived the crash in mountains 15 kilometres south east of its destination, the northern resort city of Baguio.

"We're fighting darkness but we're trying to put a man on the ground," the official added. She said the propeller-driven Hawker Siddeley aircraft had crashed near the peak of a 2,000 metre mountain.

The aircraft went missing in driving monsoon rain after sending a radio message minutes before it was due to land in the mountain resort town of Baguio after a scheduled flight from Manila.

The state-owned Philippine News Agency said dozens of anxious and tearful relatives milled around Baguio airport for hours before the aircraft was officially listed as missing.

United States Air Force officials from Clark Air Base said three specially-equipped helicopters from the base Search and Rescue Unit had been sent to the region. Hospital facilities were being prepared, he added.

A team of paramedics was being sent to the area, in the Cordillera Mountains, a rugged

range with peaks of up to 3,000 metres and few roads.

A U.S. embassy spokesman in Manila said airline officials had told him that 10 Americans were on the flight. He declined to name them.

"We don't know yet their fate and we're trying to determine whether or not they have next of kin living in the Philippines," he said.

Airline spokesman Ruaben Navarro told Reuters the aircraft was carrying 45 passengers and four crew. He said several passengers had Japanese names but could provide no detailed passenger list.

In Tokyo, the airline branch said there were eight Japanese on board the aircraft, but the Japanese embassy in Manila said they were unaware of the accident and were seeking details.

Flight PR206 left Manila at 10.00 a.m. (0200 GMT) and was due to land at Baguio 70 minutes later.

A spokesman at military headquarters in the capital said helicopters had been sent to Mount Pugo to try and find the crashed aircraft and search for survivors.

Philippine Airlines (PAL), the state-owned national carrier, operates nine of the British-built HS748 aircraft on domestic routes.

The last major air disaster in the Philippines was in 1975 when an aircraft crashed in Manila, killing 33 people.

Philippine rescue head Maj. Emmanuel Jimenez said on independent Channel Seven television that the plane had crashed in a heavily forested area and had apparently exploded.

"It looked like it exploded," he said. "We believe there were no survivors."

Thatcher unveils new government programme

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has promised Britons more choice in housing, education and a radical reform of local taxes in a programme opposition Labour leader Neil Kinnock termed malevolent.

Boosted by a 101-seat majority in the June 11 general election that gave her a record third consecutive term, Mrs. Thatcher promised to continue her crusade to loosen the grip of left-wing local authorities and unions on key political issues.

Labour vowed to fight the programme, which was read out in accordance with ancient tradition by Queen Elizabeth in the House of Lords, the upper house of parliament.

"This is a government that knows the price of everything and the value of absolutely nothing," said Mr. Kinnock, opening the debate on the queen's speech.

"All the signs are that this government, like the one before, will be using its powers malevolently," he added.

Mrs. Thatcher reaffirmed her government's commitment to re-

tain and upgrade Britain's independent nuclear deterrent, a pledge credited with helping her get back in power as voters cold-shouldered Labour's non-nuclear defence policy.

The government "will sustain Britain's contribution to Western defence by modernising the independent nuclear deterrent through the introduction of the Trident submarine programme and by increasing the effectiveness of the nation's conventional forces," the queen announced.

One of the most radical proposals would enable state-run schools to opt out of local authority control and deal directly with central government.

The government has said its reform of education would include the introduction of charges for extras such as music tuition, transport and outings.

Other new legislation will allow tenants in public housing schemes to transfer from their local authority to other landlords and encourage more of them to buy their homes.

Gonzalez calls on Spain to unite against violence

BARCELONA (R) — Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez urged Spaniards to unite against violence as he left a sombre memorial service for 18 people who died in a Barcelona supermarket bomb blast detonated by Basque separatists.

"I ask all citizens ... to unite in order to do away with this plague. This is the worst burden a government can bear," Mr. Gonzalez said Thursday in a statement on last week's explosion.

The crowd of several thousand packed into the city's medieval cathedral square cheered when Mr. Gonzalez shook hands with relatives of the dead, but the mood was otherwise solemn.

Police sharpshooters watched from rooftops above the square. The brutal outbreak of violence has brought death, the destruction of many families, fear and rage to the whole city.

Barcelona's Archbishop Narcis Jubany told the crowd.

Only hours after the service there was a brief flurry of panic in a central Barcelona street, Paseo Isabel, when an electrical overload caused an explosion in an underground pipe, sending a cloud of smoke into the street.

Police said there were no casualties.

Earlier in the day seven people were injured when Catalan separatists set off a home-made bomb in a Barcelona suburb, adding tension to the city.

Last Friday's supermarket bomb was the worst-ever attack by ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom).

"We will support the government (on terrorism) because ETA laughs at us all every time we don't agree in parliament," Antonio Hernandez Mancha, leader of the main right-wing opposition party, told reporters after the service.

Hundreds of thousands of people marched through Barcelona last Monday in a show of solidarity against Basque separatist violence.

ETA has said the bomb was the result of a mistake but officials believe it could mean an escalation in violence by the group, which has waged a 19-year-long war for a separate Basque state.

Responsibility for setting off Thursday's bomb in a tax office was claimed by Catalan separatists of the Terra Llure (free land) group.

Reagan in 'great health'

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan was "in great health, great spirits" before undergoing his fourth intestinal examination to check for any recurrence of his July 1985 colon cancer, the White House said.

Presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters Thursday that the president is "feeling fine. He's terrific."

Mr. Fitzwater said the colonos-

copy, which is an internal examination of the full length of the large intestine, would be performed as routine office procedure in the White House Friday.

The spokesman said he did not know the specific time for the exam.

On Thursday, White House officials issued only a brief, three-sentence announcement about the planned check-up.

Hungary replaces president and premier in reshuffle

BUDAPEST (R) — President Pal Losonczi will retire and Prime Minister Gyorgy Lazar will be replaced in a reshuffle at the top of the Hungarian leadership, the official radio has reported.

It said Losonczi, 67, head of state for 20 years, would be succeeded by Karoly Nemeth, deputy to Communist Party leader Janos Kadar, and Budapest Party chief Karoly Grosz would take over from Lazar.

Lazar, 62, steps into Nemeth's old job as deputy general secretary, a post which, like the presidency, is of only nominal importance, official sources say.

The changes, decided by the party Central Committee on Tuesday and ratified by parliament Thursday, mark a promotion for Grosz, one of two leading contenders to succeed Kadar. The other is party propaganda chief Janos Berecz.

Both are aged 56, nearly 50 years younger than Kadar and regarded by Western diplomats and official sources as the kind of vigorous men needed to revive the faltering economy.

Berecz, a Central Committee secretary, has been promoted to the 13-member politburo.

A Western observer said: "There's no doubt about it. The appointment of Grosz will mean action on the economy."

Hungary has blazed the trail of economic reform in Eastern Europe but its economy has faltered this decade and economists and politicians have called for faster reform.

Other rejuvenating changes included promotion to the politburo of Deputy Prime Minister Judit Csebak, 46, and a further step in the rise of 39-year-old Miklos Nemeth, who takes over from his former boss Ferenc Havasi as Central Committee secretary in charge of the economy.

Nemeth took over the department of economic policy under Havasi in January and until now was not even a member of the committee.

Central Committee Secretary Istvan Horvath, another 56-year-old who could succeed Kadar, becomes deputy prime minister.

Jackie Gleason dies at 71

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (R) — American comedian Jackie Gleason, who gained fame playing a fat bumbling bus driver in the hit television comedy series The Honeymooners, has died of cancer at his home here, his family said.

Gleason, nicknamed "the Great One," was released from a hospital last Thursday after undergoing cancer treatment, said spokesman Ray Casas.

"He was feeling in good spirits Monday and Tuesday," his wife, Marilyn, said in a statement. "He quietly, comfortably passed away."

Gleason, a relative recluse in

his last years, created the character Ralph Kramden in the popular comedy series made in the mid-1950s that has remained a cult favourite since.

In his long career, the rotund comedian made 20 movies and earned the admiration of such actors as Sir Laurence Olivier, with whom he co-starred in Mr. Halpern and Mr. Johnson, a television film.

Olivier called Gleason "a great serious actor" and one of the finest he had ever worked with.

Among his most famous performances was his role as Minnesota Fats in the film The Hustler, for which he was nominated for an Oscar.

U.S. victims of diplomatic crime urge changes in laws

WASHINGTON (R) — Ken Sheen says the worst thing about being assaulted and shot while working in a local bar was waking up in hospital and finding out his assailant would escape prosecution because of diplomatic immunity.

"That did more damage than my being shot," said Sheen, whose alleged attacker was the son of a Brazilian embassy official.

"They flew him out the next day, and I still can't understand it."

Sheen was among victims of alleged diplomatic crimes who called a news conference Thursday to press their campaign for drastic changes in laws that grant immunity from prosecution to diplomats and their families.

The State Department reports an estimated 34,000 people enjoy diplomatic immunity in the United States with about 28,000 residing in Washington and 6,000 in New York City.

Chuck Ashman, journalist and author of a book called "diplomatic crime," said he estimates that 23 rapes, six murders, dozens of other violent crimes and countless drunk driving and shoplifting cases have involved diplomats worldwide over the past three years.

"Like most Americans I believed that diplomatic immunity

has a lot of parking tickets, an occasional drunk driver and maybe even the shoplifting wife of an ambassador who took some partygoers without paying for them," Ashman said.

He said interviews with over 300 people in the United States, Canada, Britain and Australia disclosed that many incidents are much more serious.

A State Department protocol official, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters allegations of widespread diplomatic crime are "overblown" and "sensational."

Among 31 crimes protected by diplomatic immunity in the United States from June 1, 1986 to May 31, 1987, the State Department reported most were traffic and shoplifting offences and only six involved sexual and other assault.

Congressman Stephen Solarz, a New York Democrat, said he will introduce legislation to provide compensation to victims of diplomatic crimes and require full liability insurance for all diplomatic missions in the United States.

"When you have people here, as we clearly do, who enjoy diplomatic immunity and who engage in rape and robbery, who mug and even murder then you have not only an untenable but an unacceptable situation," he said.

Soviet leaders discuss tough economic proposals

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union's policy-making Central Committee convened Friday to discuss tough economic proposals by Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev and to make at least one change in its top ranks.

The committee was expected to endorse the removal from the junior ranks of the ruling politburo of former Defence Minister Sergei Sokolov, who was dropped after a teenage West German pilot landed a plane near Red Square last month.

The elite body of slightly more than 300 members was also discussing proposals by Mr. Gorbachev for radical measures to boost the Soviet economy, including allowing enterprises greater independence from central planners in Moscow.

Bluntly assessing problems in the country's economy, Mr. Gorbachev told the first day of the meeting Thursday there was no place for people blocking his two-year-old renewal programme.

"The party and public organisations should display firmness to such people and be implacable to them," he said. "Those who have failed to grasp the meaning of the new tasks... actually sabotage the reconstruction."

Political analysts expect Sokolov's successor, Dmitry Yazov, who is not even a full member of the Central Committee, to be promoted. But if he failed to enter the politburo, it would mark a reduction of military influence in top party ranks.

Many Western specialists have long thought that Mr. Gorbachev would like to drop Vladimir Shcherbitsky, the last remaining full member of the 11-man politburo who had close ties with the now disgraced leader Leonid Brezhnev.

But analysts noted that Mr. Shcherbitsky, the Ukrainian Party leader, was listed as the first speaker after Mr. Gorbachev to address Thursday's meeting, indicating that he was likely to hold on to his position.

A question mark also hung over the future of Geidar Aliyev, a first deputy prime minister, whose influence has declined under Mr. Gorbachev after a smooth rise through the party ranks. Some Soviet sources say Mr. Aliyev recently had a heart attack.

Speakers on the first day included Gennady Kolbin, a Russian who replaced long-serving Dinnukhamed Kunayev as party leader in the Central Asian Republic of Kazakhstan last December. His appointment led to nationalist Kazakh riots in the republic's capital, Alma-Ata.

Mr. Kolbin, a Central Committee member since 1981, has since proved himself an energetic and tough-speaking leader like Mr. Gorbachev and diplomats have said it is only a matter of time before he is promoted to the politburo.

7 Japanese ministers in China

PEKING (R) — Seven Japanese cabinet members bent on smoothing tense relations with China arrived here Friday barely one hour after Peking hit out at the vandalising of a Chinese monument in Japan as a very outrageous act.

Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranai and other members of the team were greeted with standard diplomatic courtesy by Vice Foreign Minister Lin Shunqing on arrival at Peking airport. They will have three days of talks with Chinese leaders.

Western diplomats said the initial atmosphere at the biannual conference was bound to be affected by the desecration Thursday of a monument to China's late Premier Chou Enlai in Kyoto City.

"Such an act which is aimed at undermining Sino-Japanese

friendship is very outrageous," a Foreign Ministry spokesman told Reuters when asked about the daubing of anti-Chinese slogans and scattering of pamphlets attacking this weekend's conference.

The spokesman said China had taken note of the remarks by Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, who moved quickly to defuse tension by describing the incident as regrettable.

The New China News Agency in a report from Tokyo said Mr. Kuranai had brought a verbal message from Mr. Nakasone for the Chinese leadership.

Western diplomats said the vandalism, blamed by police on anti-Communist elements, was just one more irritant to add to serious policy differences on trade, defence and other issues.

U.S. welcomes Ortega's decision to attend summit

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has welcomed Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega's decision to attend a summit of Central American leaders to discuss a regional peace plan.

The summit was originally scheduled to start Thursday but was postponed until Aug. 6 and 7. Mr. Ortega initially objected to the delay, before backing the new dates.

"We welcome President Ortega's decision to attend the summit," State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley told reporters.

"Nicaragua's refusal to participate (in the August summit) had threatened to undermine the peace process. This reversal will allow the process to get back on track," she said.

The summit is to discuss a peace plan put forward by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias calling for a ceasefire and an end to foreign military assistance in the region, including U.S. support for Nicaraguan rebels seeking to

overthrow the leftist Sandinista government.

Meanwhile six Nicaraguan rebels were killed Thursday and one wounded when up to 200 of the insurgents attacked a northern Nicaraguan village, a Defence Ministry spokeswoman said.

She said the U.S.-backed contra rebels had planned to capture the village of Quilali, 150 kilometres north of Managua, in Nueva Segovia province, but were beaten back by civil defence forces.

Two of the defenders were killed, the spokeswoman said, but gave no further details.

"The contras were trying to produce a propaganda blow by taking Quilali, which failed, costing them big losses," said Carlos Manuel Morales, a delegate of the left-wing Sandinista government in Nueva Segovia, speaking on government radio.

The attack came amid an upsurge in fighting following approval by the U.S. Congress of \$100 million in aid to the rebels.

Locusts pose alarming threat across North Africa — FAO

NAIROBI (R) — Desert locusts have escaped from their usual breeding grounds in north east Africa and pose an alarming threat to crops from the Atlantic coast to Arabia, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has said.

Lukas Brader, director of the FAO's Emergency Centre for Locust Operations, told a news conference that surveys had already identified 26 swarms covering a total area of 200 square kilometres in northern Ethiopia and central Sudan.

"These are only the ones that have been seen. I'm convinced there are more," he said.

One swarm, covering about 10 square kilometres and containing up to 500 million insects, forced Asmara airport in the north Ethiopian province of Eritrea to close down last Monday and Tuesday.

Mr. Brader described the present infestation of desert locusts, with swarms sighted as far apart as Mauritania and the Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia, as unprecedented in recent history.

"Everybody is extremely concerned. It's an insect that scares

people ... we feel we are now in an extremely serious situation that needs intensive surveillance and intensive control," he said.

"Without urgent effective control measures, the current invasion could reach plague proportions within the coming months," a FAO statement added.

One square kilometre of desert locusts consumes 100 tonnes of vegetation a day before moving on for more food. In favourable breeding conditions the locust population can multiply 80 to 100-fold in a life cycle of six weeks.

The threat is particularly dangerous this year because the locusts have taken advantage of good rains to start breeding months ahead of normal and because civil unrest in northern Ethiopia severely hampers control operations.

The desert locust control organisation for eastern Africa, which is meant to stop the insects swarming, has not been able to conduct adequate surveys in Eritrea and neighbouring Tigray, Mr. Brader said. Anti-government guerrillas control much of the countryside in these areas.

COLUMNS 7 & 8

11-year-old aviator to fly across U.S.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — An 11-year-old boy who hopes to become the youngest person ever to pilot a plane across the United States took off into the busy, busy skies of southern California. John Kevin Hill, who is not old enough to have a pilot's licence, or a car driver's licence for that matter, sat atop the two pillows, with one behind him, so that he could see out the cockpit of the turbo-charged, single-engine Cessna 210. "I feel alright. It's not a big deal to me, I'm used to flying long distances," the Arlington, Texas, boy said just before takeoff. He was accompanied by instructor Mike Fields, who will take over in case of emergency, and a Texas newspaper reporter. John, dressed in jeans, a shirt, tennis shoes and a baseball cap with his name on it, said he would have to rely on the airplane's instruments, rather than control tower radar, for his safe passage out of the area. Whiteman Air Park, in the San Fernando Valley, has no control tower. The first leg of the trip takes the boy to Cedar City, Utah. He stops in Loveland, Colorado, on Friday, then it's on to Kansas City, Missouri, and St. Louis for a stop on Sunday. On July 1, John is scheduled to reach Washington, D.C. He has had 150 hours of flying experience, and plans to log plenty more.

Human yo-yo makes Eiffel Tower leap

PARIS (AP) — A New Zealander bounced back from a headfirst leap from the Eiffel Tower — with an elastic cord tied around his feet. Alan John Hackett, 29, said he wanted to bring New Zealand's sport of "bungy jumping" to Paris, and felt that the city's most famous landmark was the right place to do it. "I mean, it's such a beautiful place," he said. Eiffel Tower authorities were not amused. "We have nothing to say about this matter," said a spokeswoman for the landmark's publicity agency, who refused to give her name. However, she confirmed the event had taken place. Hackett said he and a French companion, whom he would not identify, hid themselves in the tower the night before the leap. "We found a nice quiet, dark place on the roof of a structure just below the second floor level" from where he jumped, he said. A man answering the telephone at the tower office, who also refused to give his name, did not want to discuss how Hackett might have hidden himself. "It's a large structure," he said. "Of course we have a great deal of security, but it is possible for someone to hide in a building of this size." The stunt raised questions about security, which was tightened at the tower after a bomb, which did not explode, was found in a toilet last year.

U.S. prison soccer side banned

EVESHAM, England (R) — The Nomads soccer team from central England have been banned from their local amateur league for inflicting too many injuries on opponents. The Evesham Sunday League decided on a way of getting rid of the Nomads after other teams refused to play them because of a long catalogue of injuries. They said they had decided to rigidly enforce the rule that league members should play games away as well as at home — difficult for the Nomads, whose members are all prisoners at Long Larkin Maximum Security jail.

China appeals for top people's sperm

PEKING (R) — A hospital in southern China is appealing to writers, artists, athletes and other accomplished men to donate to the country's first sperm bank. China Daily has reported. The Human Medical College in south China has difficulty finding donors because of traditional Chinese prejudices against artificial insemination, the newspaper said. The hospital has performed only 137 insemination operations since it was set up in 1981, but has received more than 5,000 applications for the service, it said. The newspaper quoted a member of the sperm bank's staff as saying the college had turned away applicants who were unmarried or looking for a surrogate mother. Chinese newspapers said earlier this year that 12 women were hoping to have the country's first test-tube babies after treatment in Peking by European doctors.

Joan Collins' husband left with only a bed

LOS ANGELES (R) — British actress Joan Collins, who plays the bitchy Alexis Carrington in the U.S. television series Dynasty, has left her estranged husband with just a bed in her Hollywood mansion, her lawyer has said. The lawyer, Marvin Mitchellson, said he would ask a superior court commissioner to order Peter Holm, a 39-year-old Swedish businessman, to leave the mansion. Mitchellson told reporters that when the actress's representatives visited the mansion they found paintings, furniture, books and other property had been removed. The representatives removed the remaining furniture, leaving Holm only a bed, Mitchellson said. Collins, 54, who is in London, has been living in her other Los Angeles home, in Beverly Hills, since she and Holm separated last January after 13 months of marriage. She has sued Holm, her fourth husband, for a divorce, citing irreconcilable differences and alleged fraud. Mitchellson said Collins had sold the Hollywood mansion to a film producer who wanted to move in as soon as possible. Holm failed last month to obtain a court order giving him a \$150,000 advance from Collins.

Specialist to help save Oman's turtles

MUSCAT (AP) — An American sea turtle specialist has arrived to help the government save Oman's endangered turtle population. Urban development near nesting beaches, changing patterns of recreational activity and improved fishing technology over the past few years all threaten Oman's breeding turtles, according to a report issued Tuesday. The specialist, James Pearson Ross, has been called in to help by Oman's Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries who are sponsoring his work along with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the Oman-American Joint Commission for Technical and Economic Cooperation. Ross undertook the first major survey of Oman's sea turtles from 1977 to 1980, supported by the Oman government and the World Wildlife Fund.

Air travellers to get phone link

LONDON (R) — Air travellers will soon be able to telephone worldwide from their aircraft seat, officials from the international communications group Inmarsat have said. The London-based 48-nation organisation told a symposium it was launching an airborne satellite communications system to provide advanced operational data for pilots and ground controllers and to help passengers do business while in transit. "For the passengers, it means you're never out of touch, for the airlines it means safer, more dependable communications," Kevin Smith, an engineer from Inmarsat — International Maritime Satellite Organisation — told Reuters. The system is expected to be operational in some aircraft by early next year and all over the world by 1989.

Belgian UNICEF chief quits

BRUSSELS (R) — The president of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Belgium has handed in his resignation over a child sex scandal which has hit the agency's Brussels headquarters, a UNICEF spokesman has said. The director of UNICEF's Belgian committee and a volunteer worker have been charged in connection with an international ring which allegedly developed pornographic photographs of children in the basement of the Brussels office. The spokesman said President Gilbert Jaeger had told UNICEF's headquarters in Geneva that he was ready to quit "to show how indignant he feels." Jaeger was not connected with the ring, he said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OWEN GARRETT
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W IS FOR WINKLE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 5
♥ K 4
♦ Q 7 6 2
♣ A 9 8 5

WEST
♠ Q 9 2
♥ A J 10 8 5
♦ E 10
♣ J 5 4

EAST
♠ 7 6
♥ Q 9 8 3
♦ A 9 5
♣ 10 8 7 2

SOUTH
♠ A K J 10 8 4 3
♥ 7 2
♦ J 4
♣ K Q

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 2 ♥ Pass 3 ♥
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠

The Winkle is really a form of guard squeeze. Although both defenders control the key suit, they cannot unscramble their tricks. The name was given by Terence Reese, who wrote about it in some depth. This is one of those hands he used to illustrate the situation.

When South rebid his spades at the three-level, North decided his partner did not need support in the suit. Since his hand rated to produce at least two tricks, North felt justified in bidding game.

West attacked with the ace of

hearts. As a diamond shift could easily have been fatal, he elected to continue with another heart to dummy's king. When the spade finesse lost to his queen, West persevered with hearts. Declarer ruffed and ran trumps, reducing the hand to this position:

NORTH
♠ —
♥ Q
♦ Q
♣ A 9 5 3